

PHIP WORKPLAN UPDATE

For
PHIP Steering Committee
February 4, 2004

Committee: Information Technology

Work to date: Key Steps

X Staff assigned
NA Consultants hired
X Committee has met
Forming_ Sub-Committees have met
X Scheduled meetings in advance
Other _____

Special Notes on current Activity:

Accomplishments and progress to date

Obj. #1 - Coordinate statewide IT projects – This objective seems to constitute the bulk of the committees work currently. Please see PHIT meeting agenda in appendix as a sample of the range of topics / projects considered by the committee.

Obj. #2 – Share and use IT Survey results – results of this detailed statewide IT assessment of LHJs and DOH are available via a pass protected web page to each LHJ and DOH. Discussed on 1/28 how to proceed from here.

Obj. #3 Data Standards – Thus far, in addition to having completed the IT survey, this has involved sharing information about hardware and software and may soon include a listserv or other communication mechanism by which IT staff among LHJ and DOH could routinely communicate and share information.

Obj. #4 - Provide updated information on health indicators to local communities through VISTA in order to support health assessment capacity – via the VISTA project, specifications have been developed and a contractor has been hired to produce sub-county population estimates by spring 04 – thus denominators. This is the first and a very necessary step in enabling local communities to conduct health assessment.

Questions or Discussion items for the Steering Committee

Emerging Issues, Potential Recommendations for Steering Committee to discuss in the Future

1. Coordination and management between DOH and LHJs regarding security issues – specifically: authentication (a.k.a. digital certificates) and granting of access to various datasets / applications. Need to clarify authentication options and criteria for selecting an authentication method either system-wide (state / local public health) or application-by-

application. Need to establish a system-wide (state / local public health) business process around who designates / approves individuals for access to various datasets / applications and keeping this information current. We are looking at enhancing the data steward role in the LHJ to serve as a focal point or contact for approval in allowing access of LHJ staff into any DOH WEB based application such as PHIMS, SHARE, Catalyst, etc.

2. Coordination and pro-active role - During this PHIP cycle, it seems that coordinating statewide IT project that are funded, planned, implemented, and overall owned and directed by other entities, will comprise the bulk of the committees work. In this area, thus far, the committee has been in a somewhat reactive mode – hearing about a new topics / projects / technology, inviting someone to talk about it at the PHIT meeting to inform the committee and allow for questions and discussion. The committee, as a group, is just beginning to uncover overlapping and policy related issues among these many topics / projects. We now need to evolve this committee to a more proactive mode. While the committee generally is not directly developing actual products or directly managing the many IT projects across the state, there is great potential and need for the committee to set priorities, develop guidance and principles, convene appropriate parties / stakeholders and make policy recommendations to those who are. We will be working to evolve the committee in this direction.